IN THE CLAIMS

This **Listing of Claims** will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A memory-programmable control (SPS) for coupling to a data interface (8) of a personal computer (PC), the personal computer (PC) including a user interface (13), a memory and a control unit for function assignment (3), the SPS comprising:

means for operating the inputs and outputs (9, 10) of the SPS, the means including keys (T1 through Tn) for tripping machine functions, wherein the keys (T1 through Tn) are embodied as pushbuttons (T1 through Tn), provided in addition to the user interface (13) of the PC, are each electrically connected directly to one each of the SPS inputs (9) at the same time that the personal computer (PC) is coupled to the SPS and are each electrically connected, parallel to the SPS inputs (9), to an internal bus (14) of the PC;

wherein one of a plurality of key levels, each with selected meanings, stored in memory in the PC, for the pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) is selectable from the user interface (13) of the PC; and

a control unit for flag assignment (4) connected directly to the SPS inputs (9) and thus to the external pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) and to the PC via the data interface (8);

wherein the control unit for flag assignment (4) receives information about a key allocation of the pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) in a particular key level upon selection and links this information with a pushbutton signal applied to an SPS input (9), and

wherein upon selection of any of the keys (T1 through Tn), a respective surface function (5) of the PC, stored in the memory and simultaneously assigned to both the machine function and to the key's respective key allocation is tripped.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The device as defined by claim 1, wherein the control unit for function assignment ~~a first data-processing control unit~~ (3) is[[,]] connected to the pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) via the internal bus (14)~~, is provided~~ in the PC, which control unit for function assignment ~~first data-processing control unit~~ (3) receives the information about the surface functions (5) assigned to the pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) and links the information with a pushbutton signal, applied to the internal bus (14), to make a starting signal for the surface functions (5) assigned to that pushbutton (T1 through Tn).

4. (currently amended) The device as defined by claim ~~one of claims~~ 1,

wherein a ~~second~~ data-processing control unit (6) is provided in the PC, which ~~second~~ data-processing control unit (6) is connected to a screen (12) of

the PC and receives the information about a key label (17), corresponding to the key allocation, so that the key allocation of the particular key level selected can be displayed on the screen (12) of the PC by means of a key label (17).

5. (currently amended) The device as defined by claim 4,

wherein the ~~second~~ data-processing control unit (6) receives status information about the pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) from the control unit for flag assignment (4) via the data interface (8); and

wherein the visual display of the key label (17) of the individual pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) is dependent on the status information about the individual pushbuttons (T1 through Tn).

6. (previously presented) The device as defined by claim 4,

wherein the pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) are located in the vicinity of the screen (12) of the PC in such a way that a direct relationship with the key label (17) and/or pushbutton status information on the screen (12) can be established by the user of the device.

7. (previously presented) The device as defined by claim 4,

wherein the software in the PC is embodied such that the key label (17) can be displayed in reserved areas of the screen (12) that are not coverable by other display functions.

8. (previously presented) The device as defined by claim 1,

wherein a central memory unit (1) is provided in the PC, in which for each selectable key level, one data matrix (15) is stored, and wherein each of the pushbuttons (T1 through Tn) is assigned a data line containing information that is allocated in columns to different purposes, which is stored with said data matrix (15).

9. (currently amended) The device as defined by claim 8,

wherein a central control element for level control (2) is provided in the PC, which acts as a data shunt between the central memory unit (1), the control unit for function assignment ~~first data-processing control unit~~ (3), the ~~second~~ data-processing control unit (6), and the control unit for flag assignment (4).

10. (currently amended) The device as defined by claim 9,

wherein the data matrix (15), for each pushbutton (T1 through Tn), further stores one SPS function flag, corresponding to the allocation of the pushbutton (T1 through Tn) in the selected key level, one SPS feedback flag, one piece of label information, and one PC function identification, assigned to the allocation of the pushbutton (T1 through Tn), of the surface function (5);

and

wherein the control unit for function assignment ~~first data-processing control unit~~ (3) receives the information on PC function identification, the ~~second~~ data-processing control unit (6) receives the information on labeling, and the

control unit for flag assignment (4) receives the information on SPS function flags and SPS feedback flags via the control element level control (2) from the central memory unit (1).